

2004 Press Releases

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August 2004

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STATE OF NEBRASKA
Office of the Attorney General

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attorney General Jon Bruning
Guest Column: August 31, 2004
Contact: Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

Be Safe, Drive Sober This Labor Day Weekend

Drunk driving is Nebraska's most frequently committed violent crime and far too many people are dying on our roads because of it.

The statistics speak for themselves. Last year alone, there was one alcohol-related death recorded every three days in Nebraska and one person was seriously injured every three hours in an alcohol-related crash. Even more difficult to ignore are the 13,000 arrests that occur annually in our state.

What these numbers fail to represent, however, is the heartache left behind at the loss of a family member or friend due to a completely preventable tragedy like drunk driving. The devastation left in the wake of their passing can only be described as intolerable for their families and communities.

We are fortunate to have an organization in our state that is devoted to putting an end to this criminal offense, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). As your Attorney General, I proudly support MADD's mission to stop drunk driving, support victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking. I also want to voice my support for the 75 law enforcement agencies across our state that will commit more than 10,000 extra hours to combating drunk driving by conducting high visibility enforcement, including sobriety checkpoints, this Labor Day weekend.

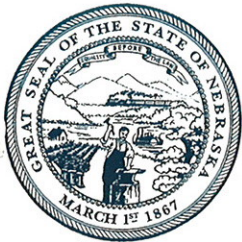
As law enforcement and MADD work throughout the holiday weekend to ensure that our roads are safe to travel, I want to encourage individual Nebraskans to do their part as well. MADD offers some tips for citizens to have a safe and happy weekend:

- Designate a sober driver prior to parties or special events.
- Never serve alcohol to anyone under the age of 21.
- Be a safe party host by supplying non-alcoholic beverages and high protein snacks.
- Volunteer with your local MADD chapter and assist in their mission to stop drunk driving, support victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking. Those in need of victim services can call 1-800-444-6233 (MADD).

Remember, when impaired drivers take to the road, they not only put themselves and those on the road at risk, they put the public safety in jeopardy. In addition to the physical and emotional damage they inflict as a result of their careless behavior, impaired drivers

place a financial burden on the community in the form of court costs, emergency services and repair to public property. That translates into a sizable amount of tax dollars.

As Mothers Against Drunk Driving and law enforcement work to put an end to drunk driving we can do our part by making the choice not to drink and drive, not to serve alcohol to anyone under 21 and to report suspected drunk drivers. If you observe a suspected drunk driver report them immediately using *55 on your cell phone or call 1-800-525-5555 to report this or any roadway emergency. Your call could help save a life.



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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEDIA ADVISORY
August 30, 2004, 10:00 a.m. CT

CONTACT: Regan Anson
402-471-2067

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

**Attorney General Bruning to Give Away
Husker Tickets at Belmont Elementary at
2:30 p.m. CT TODAY**

Attorney General Jon Bruning will give away two Husker football tickets for this weekend's game against Western Illinois at 2:30 p.m. CT today, Monday, Aug. 30 during an all-school assembly at Belmont Elementary, 3425 N. 14th St., in Lincoln.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 25, 2004, 11:00 a.m. CT

CONTACTS:

Regan Anson, Attorney General's Office, 402-471-2067 or 402-416-7539 (c)
Greg Lemon, Deputy Secretary of State, 402-471-4071

State Officers Tout New Law that Cracks- Down on Improper Legal Services

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning and Secretary of State John Gale are cracking down on individuals who improperly offer legal services to Spanish-speaking Nebraskans as a result of LB 315, which took effect July 16.

The legislation targets the use of the Spanish term "notario publico" by a notary public who is not an attorney. Notario publico is the literal translation from English to Spanish of notary public. However, in Mexico and other Spanish-speaking countries, a notario publico must be an attorney or have other specialized training that allows the person to practice law. A notario's legal authority in those countries goes well beyond that of a Nebraska notary.

Under LB 315, representing oneself as a notario publico is now a Class III misdemeanor punishable by up to three months in prison and/or a \$500 fine. Offenders also risk the revocation of their notary license by the Secretary of State.

Notary Publics are licensed by the Secretary of State and enforcement of the law is carried out by the Attorney General.

"The unauthorized practice of law by some notaries is not only unacceptable, it is now a criminal act," Attorney General Bruning said. "The new legislation affords us the opportunity to hold accountable criminals who prey on Spanish-speaking Nebraskans. This is an important part of a much larger effort by the Attorney General's Office to protect Nebraskans from fraud."

Secretary Gale said, "We asked the Legislature for this prohibition after hearing of cases of fraud from the public. I will revoke notary licenses that are being abused. We hope that by educating Nebraska's Spanish-speaking population on the difference between a notary public and a notario publico, we can curb the unauthorized practice of law by some notaries."

(more)

Printed with soy ink on recycled paper

Improper Legal Services Crackdown, Page 2
August 25, 2004

Attorney General Bruning advises those Spanish-speaking Nebraskans who have been victimized by a notary posing as a notario publico to contact the Secretary of State's Notary Public Office, the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division and/or Latino Outreach Coordinator Renee Martinez-Junck, who holds office hours in Omaha and South Sioux City, at 402-471-2682 or 1-800-727-6432.

For additional information on the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division, visit www.ago.state.ne.us.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 25, 2004 10:30 a.m. CT

CONTACT: Regan Anson
402-471-1970 or 402-416-7539

Attorney General Bruning Presents \$45,000 to Community Assistance Programs Across Nebraska

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning presented the first of nine checks totaling \$45,000 this morning at the Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center in Lincoln and All Our Kids Inc. in Omaha. The Attorney General's two-day, seven community tour also includes stops in South Sioux City and Norfolk later today and Kearney, North Platte and Scottsbluff tomorrow.

The checks are being distributed as part of an \$8.2 million class-action lawsuit settlement reached between Salton Inc. and attorneys general in 43 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Salton was accused of violating federal anti-trust laws for allegedly fixing the price of George Foreman grills, which the company manufactures, by trying to keep retail outlets from selling the grills at prices below those charged on television and the Internet. The company was also accused of forcing retailers to exclude competing products from their shelves and of punishing stores that continued to do so by refusing to fill orders for George Foreman grills.

Attorney General Bruning said, "This is a classic example of getting something positive from a bad situation. Thanks to this settlement, we have a wonderful opportunity to recognize the unsung heroes who are out there every day working to make a difference in the lives of those in need. This money will go a long way toward ensuring that these organizations can continue to help women and children throughout our state."

Because of the difficulty in trying to identify individual consumers affected by Salton's business practices, the settlement asks states to distribute the money to charities to improve the health care and nutrition of the people they serve. Attorney General Bruning has selected nine charities to receive Nebraska's share of the settlement. Following is a list of the organizations that will receive funds:

Kearney - Spouse/Sexual Abuse Family Education Center, "The S.A.F.E. Center" - \$5,000
Lincoln - Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center - \$5,000
Norfolk - Goldenrod Hills Community Service - \$5,000
North Platte - Lincoln Connection - \$5,000
Omaha - All Our Kids Inc. - \$10,000
Scottsbluff - YMCA Trails West Camp - \$3,333
Scottsbluff - Domestic Violence Emergency Services (DOVES) - \$3,333
Scottsbluff - Panhandle Youth Shelter - \$3,333
South Sioux City - Haven House - \$5,000

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEDIA ADVISORY
August 24, 2004 8:35 a.m. CT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-1970
402-416-7539

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

**Attorney General Bruning to Present \$45,000 to
Nine Community Assistance Programs
TOMORROW, THURSDAY**

Attorney General Jon Bruning will present nine checks totaling \$45,000 to community assistance programs throughout the state during news conferences in Lincoln, Omaha, South Sioux City, Norfolk, Kearney, North Platte and Scottsbluff tomorrow, Wednesday, Aug. 25 and Thursday, Aug. 26.

The checks are being distributed as part of an \$8.2 million class-action lawsuit settlement reached between Salton Inc. and attorneys general in 43 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Salton was accused of violating federal anti-trust laws for allegedly fixing the price of George Foreman grills, which the company manufactures.

The Attorney General's news conference times and locations are as follows *(all times are Central unless otherwise noted)*:

WEDNESDAY, August 25

9:15am Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center, 2545 N St., LINCOLN
10:30am All Our Kids Inc., 1004 Farnam St., OMAHA
12:00pm Haven House, 112 E. 21st St., SOUTH SIOUX CITY
1:45pm Goldenrod Hills Community Service, 1405 Riverside Blvd., NORFOLK

THURSDAY, August 26

10:00am Spouse/Sexual Abuse Family Education Center, "The S.A.F.E. Center,"
3720 Ave. A, KEARNEY
11:30am Lincoln Connection, 511 North Jeffers St., NORTH PLATTE
1:00pm MT YMCA Trails West Camp, 1918 S.W. Beltline Hwy, SCOTTSBLUFF

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 23, 2004, 10:30 a.m. CT

CONTACT: Regan Anson
402-471-2067

Attorney General Bruning Announces Consumer Protection Information Booth at Nebraska State Fair

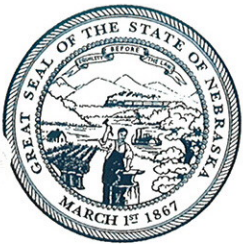
(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced that the Consumer Protection Division of the Nebraska Attorney General's Office will have an information booth at the Nebraska State Fair Aug. 28 through Sept. 6.

Representatives from the division will be on hand to answer questions and distribute information on a variety of topics from shopping securely on the Internet to identity theft.

Attorney General Bruning said, "This office is in the business of protecting Nebraskans, and educating people about consumer fraud is the best way to prevent them from becoming victims. The Nebraska State Fair offers a great opportunity for Nebraskans to stop by the consumer protection booth and brush-up on some important tips that can save them a lot of money and, in some cases, a lot of hassle."

For additional information, visit the Consumer Protection Division's Web site at www.ago.state.ne.us or call 402-471-2682 or 800-727-6432. En Espanol, 402-471-3891 o llamada gratuita, 888-850-7555.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 23, 2004, 11:00 a.m. CT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

Attorney General Bruning, Nebraska Corn Board Announce that \$110 Million StarLink Settlement Will Include Interest

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning and the Nebraska Corn Board today announced that the state's \$110 million class action settlement with StarLink corn will include interest that has been accruing at a rate of 4 percent since Sept. 24, 2002.

The announcement follows the Nebraska Corn Board's request that the Attorney General review details of the settlement on behalf of Nebraska farmers who are concerned about delays in its disbursement.

Attorney General Bruning said, "This announcement is great news for Nebraska producers who suffered the effects of StarLink corn from 1998 to 2002. We have clarified that the interest on the judgment is accruing and will become part of the settlement provided to corn producers across the United States, including farmers here in Nebraska. If the hearing for final approval of the settlement goes as scheduled on Sept. 2, 2004, distribution could begin later that month."

Don Hutchens, executive director of the Nebraska Corn Board, said, "Concerns over delays in the settlement reaching farmers' hands and whether or not interest on the \$110 million settlement would be applied prompted our request for assistance from the Attorney General's Office. I appreciate the support we've had from Attorney General Bruning's office from when we first looked into the legitimacy of this settlement, which encouraged us to assist Nebraska farmers with their claims."

The \$110 million settlement, which was reached on April 7, 2003, will provide compensation to farmers who did not plant StarLink corn and, therefore, may have had to accept lower prices or diminished exports due to the commingling of the StarLink variety with their corn. StarLink corn contained a protein to protect against insects and was sold for feed use. Some of the corn was used for other purposes which led to fears over safety, resulting in lower exports of U.S. corn and subsequent lower prices.

(more)

StarLink Settlement Includes Interest, Page 2
August 23, 2004

Under a prior agreement with several state Attorneys General, including Nebraska's, Aventis and/or StarLink Logistics has already paid more than \$130 million to farmers who grew StarLink corn, were adjacent to StarLink corn fields or had StarLink corn commingled in their bins. The acres eligible for compensation would have been harvested primarily in 2000. Deadline for the filing of claims was July 31, 2003. The Nebraska Corn Board was instrumental in helping thousands of Nebraska producers obtain information and assistance in filing their claims.

Mark Jagels, president of the Nebraska Corn Board from Davenport, said, "As a corn producer, I was pleased with our state's effort to assist Nebraska corn producers to first understand the settlement and how to apply for it. With our ongoing efforts to monitor the payment process, it's good to know that the interest will become part of the settlement."

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attorney General Jon Bruning
Guest Column: August 12, 2004
Contact: Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

Settlement Positive End to Complicated Case

During a joint announcement, Governor Mike Johanns and I recently delivered the words that Nebraskans have been waiting years to hear – it's finally over.

With the stroke of a pen, the State of Nebraska agreed to a deal with the Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission following several years of litigation. The end result is that Nebraska is no longer obligated to host a low-level waste site following our payment of \$140.5 million to the Commission, a payment that could be reduced to \$130 million if we are successful in reaching an agreement with the State of Texas to accept waste from Nebraska and the Compact states.

To put it mildly, this case has been horrible for the State of Nebraska. However, I'm proud of the work we have done to settle the lawsuit which, in the worst case scenario, could have cost the state \$207 million and forced us to license a disposal site that would not even accept Nebraska waste. Any way you slice it, this settlement is without a doubt the best possible outcome for Nebraska taxpayers.

I realize that there are a group of vocal skeptics out there who argue that we gave up on our case too soon. My response to their assertion is simple. Given the fact that the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had twice ruled against the state in this case, our efforts to take it before the U.S. Supreme Court would be best described as grasping at straws. Neither I nor the Governor were willing to risk a judgment that could have climbed to more than \$207 million and would have forced us to build a waste site that we could not even use by hanging on until our last legal recourse was exhausted.

So where do we go from here? Conversations are already underway with the State of Texas to accept nuclear waste from Nebraska and the Compact states. Other options exist as well.

It is my sincere hope that we will soon be able to put this case behind us in its entirety and resolve the issues that remain in a way befitting the integrity and spirit of Nebraskans.

Settlement Positive End to Complicated Case
By Attorney General Jon Bruning

Dear Fellow Nebraskans:

During a joint announcement, Governor Mike Johanns and I recently delivered the words that Nebraskans have been waiting years to hear – it's finally over.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEDIA ADVISORY
August 12, 2004, 3:40 p.m. CT

CONTACT: Regan Anson
402-471-2067

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

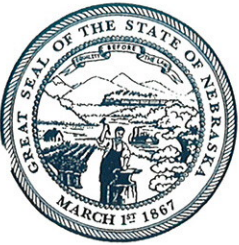
**Attorney General Bruning's Criminal Investigator to be
Featured on ABC's 20/20 TOMORROW**

Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that Criminal Bureau Investigator Charlie Venditte will be featured on ABC's 20/20 at 9:00 p.m. CT tomorrow, Friday, Aug. 13.

Venditte will discuss a case he was involved in while serving as an investigator for the Omaha Police Department. In that case an Omaha woman was held captive in her home by her husband for 10 years.

Venditte was hired by Attorney General Bruning in October 2003.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEDIA ADVISORY
August 11, 2004, 3:10 p.m. CT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

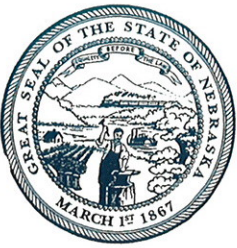
*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

**Attorney General Bruning to Speak to Nebraska
Broadcasters Association TOMORROW**

Attorney General Jon Bruning will deliver remarks at the Nebraska Broadcasters Association Convention at approximately 9:00 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, Aug. 12 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Lincoln.

Attorney General Bruning's remarks will focus on the Amber Alert program and the role that Nebraska broadcasters have played in its success.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 11, 2004, 1:50 p.m. CT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

***** NEWS RELEASE *****

**Attorney General Bruning Announces Consumer
Protection Information Booth at Scotts Bluff County Fair**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced that the Consumer Protection Division of the Nebraska Attorney General's Office will have an information booth at the Scotts Bluff County Fair Aug. 16-22.

Representatives from the division will be on hand to answer questions and distribute information on a variety of topics from shopping securely on the Internet to identity theft.

Attorney General Bruning said, "This office is in the business of protecting Nebraskans, and educating people about consumer fraud is the best way to prevent them from becoming victims. The Scotts Bluff County Fair offers a great opportunity for Nebraskans to stop by the consumer protection booth and brush-up on some important tips that can save them a lot of money and a lot of hassle."

For additional information, visit the Consumer Protection Division's Web site at www.ago.state.ne.us or call 402-471-2682 or 800-727-6432. En Espanol, 402-471-3891 o llamada gratuita, 888-850-7555.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 10, 2004, 3:20 p.m. CT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

Attorney General Bruning Announces Nebraska to Receive \$3.1 Million in Claritin 'Best Price' Settlement

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced that Nebraska will receive \$3.1 million in restitution and penalties in a settlement reached with pharmaceutical manufacturer Schering Plough.

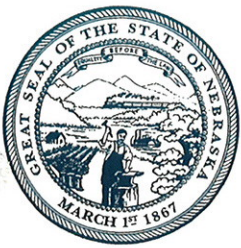
The company has agreed to pay a total of \$140.7 million to Medicaid programs in 49 states and the District of Columbia for damages and penalties from their underpayment of the Medicaid Drug Rebates on the antihistamine drug Claritin when it was a prescription medication.

Attorney General Bruning said, "This is great news for our state's Medicaid program. Not only will the Schering Plough settlement go a long way toward recouping some of the enormous costs paid by the state for this particular prescription, it also sends a clear message to other drug manufacturers that states will only settle for their best prices. With the formation of our new Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, we hope to have even more of these successes in the future."

The Federal Medicaid Drug Rebate statute requires that all pharmaceutical manufacturers that supply products to Medicaid recipients provide programs the benefit of the best price available for that product. Manufacturers are obligated to file best price information, including discounts, rebates, payments and other incentives, with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) which then uses the information to calculate rebates for state Medicaid programs.

Under the federal agreement, Schering Sales Corporation, a subsidiary of Schering, will plead guilty to federal criminal anti-kickback charges and pay a fine of \$52.5 million. Schering also entered into a civil false claims settlement in federal court in Philadelphia. Schering will pay a total of \$282.3 million to resolve its civil liability for underpaying Medicaid drug rebates.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEDIA ADVISORY
August 9, 2004, 10:10 a.m. CT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

**Audio Clip Featuring Attorney General
Bruning Now Available**

An audio clip featuring comments from Attorney General Jon Bruning regarding Nebraska's settlement with the Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission is now available on the Department of Justice's Web site at http://www.ago.state.ne.us/content/sound_bits.html.

This clip's length is 1:00.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 9, 2004, 10:00 a.m. CT

CONTACT

Terri Teuber, Governor's Office, 402-471-1967
Regan Anson, Attorney General's Office, 402-471-2067

Gov. Johanns and Attorney General Bruning Announce Settlement of Low-Level Waste Lawsuit

(Lincoln, Neb.) Gov. Mike Johanns and Attorney General Jon Bruning announced a settlement today between the state of Nebraska and the Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission that releases Nebraska from an obligation to host a low-level waste site.

Under the terms of the settlement, Nebraska has agreed to pay the Commission \$140.5 million. If an agreement is reached with the state of Texas to accept waste from Nebraska and the compact states, Nebraska's total payment will be reduced to \$130 million.

Nebraska has the option to spread the payments over a four-year period ending in August 2008. Under that option, the state would owe the Commission approximately \$154 million, applying an agreed upon interest rate of 3.75 percent. There are no prepayment penalties under the settlement plan.

"I am very pleased to bring this lawsuit to a resolution that could save Nebraska anywhere from \$26 million to \$77 million depending on how we proceed from here," Gov. Johanns said. "Equally important is the fact that this is a final resolution of all claims against the state by the compact."

When the payments are complete, Nebraska no longer has an obligation to host a low-level waste site.

Attorney General Bruning said, "Any way you slice it, this is the best possible result for Nebraska taxpayers. I'm proud of the work we have done to settle this case which, in the worst case scenario, could have cost the state \$207 million and forced us to license a disposal site that would not even accept Nebraska waste."

(more)

Low-Level Settlement Reached, Page 2
August 9, 2004

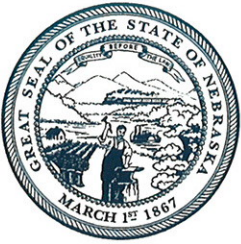
As of today, Monday, Aug. 9, Nebraska would have owed the Commission \$156 million under a U.S. District Court judgment. The amount owed by Nebraska could have climbed to an estimated \$271 million if Nebraska paid the judgment over four years and if the Commission had been successful in its claim that an 11.7 percent interest rate should apply.

Over the course of the next nine months, Nebraska and the Commission have agreed to continue to work together to explore potential options for long-term disposal of waste, including discussions with Texas and/or any other viable locations outside of Nebraska.

The Governor and the Attorney General contacted the legislative leadership this morning regarding settlement details. Gov. Johanns said, "I intend to work closely with the legislature to accomplish the terms of the settlement."

The state of Nebraska agreed in 1986 to host a low-level waste site. In 1998, the Commission sued Nebraska. In 2002, a U.S. District Court judge found that then Governor Ben Nelson and his administration acted in bad faith in the licensing process to build a low-level waste site. In 2004, the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the District Court's ruling. Last month, Nebraska asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review the case. Under the terms of the settlement the state's appeal will be dismissed.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attorney General Jon Bruning
Guest Column: August 8, 2004
Contact: Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

Job Hunters Beware

The search for a new job is never an easy task, but knowing the pitfalls to avoid and where to go for information can make the experience much more enjoyable.

Unfortunately, there are companies that prey on the unemployed. Job scam offers may come in the form of an advertisement or an unsolicited mail or e-mail. In order to protect yourself, beware of the warning signs of a job scam.

Warning signs include:

- Vague or generic job openings that may only be job listings and not specific jobs that are available.
- Guarantees of employment. No service can promise employment, especially before knowing who you are and what experience you have.
- No experience or special skills required.
- Free training.
- Exaggerated wages or benefits.
- Contact information is a post office box, mail-drop, or an out-of-state address.
- Government, civil service, or overseas job offerings that promise victims huge salaries for general labor work with benefits such as paid housing, medical and dental coverage, food, and relocation expenses.
- Advance fees. Never send cash in the mail and be suspicious of companies that require money orders or cashier's checks as payment.
- And offers of "undisclosed" employment opportunities with the federal government. All federal government jobs are publicly announced.

You can protect yourself from job scams if you:

- Never reply to e-mails offering job search assistance.
- Never pay money up-front for job information.
- Check out the company offering job placement with the State Attorney General's Office or the Better Business Bureau.
- Compare the services of more than one agency as they may vary from company to company.
- Never give credit card or bank account information over the phone as it could lead to identity theft.

- Require that all services be in a written contract and ensure that all verbal promises are a part of the written document and approved by an attorney.
- ASK QUESTIONS.
- And keep copies of all documents, including checks you send to the company.

For additional information on job scams, visit the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division's Web site at www.ago.state.ne.us or call 402-471-2682 or 800-727-6432. En Espanol, 402-471-3891 o llamada gratuita, 888-850-7555.

Job Hunters Beware
By Attorney General Jon Bruning

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 6, 2004, 10:30 a.m. CT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

Attorney General Bruning Announces Consumer Protection Information Booth at Hall County Fair

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced that the Consumer Protection Division of the Nebraska Attorney General's Office will have an information booth at the Hall County Fair Aug. 12-15.

Representatives from the division will be on hand to answer questions and distribute information on a variety of topics from shopping securely on the Internet to identity theft.

Attorney General Bruning said, "This office is in the business of protecting Nebraskans and educating people about consumer fraud is the best way to prevent them from becoming victims. The Hall County Fair offers a great opportunity for Nebraskans to stop by the consumer protection booth and brush-up on some important tips that can save them a lot of money and a lot of hassle."

For additional information, visit the Consumer Protection Division's Web site at www.ago.state.ne.us or call 402-471-2682 or 800-727-6432. En Espanol, 402-471-3891 o llamada gratuita, 888-850-7555.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 3, 2004, 4:00 p.m. CT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

Attorney General Bruning Files Child Sexual Assault Charges Against Dakota County Man

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced that his office has filed criminal charges against Harry J. Mastne of Dakota City.

Mastne, a 54-year-old foster parent and daycare provider, faces five counts of sexual assault of a child for allegedly molesting five children between the ages of 5 and 11.

"It is beyond my scope of reason as to how anyone could perpetrate these sickening acts against children," Attorney General Bruning said. "Unfortunately, there may be additional victims involved in this case. I hope that any parent in this community who has a child that may have suffered at the hands of this individual will contact authorities immediately so that we can get them the help they need."

Sexual assault of a child is a Class IIIA felony punishable by up to five years in prison and/or a \$10,000 fine.

Mastne's bond has been set at \$400,000. A preliminary hearing has been scheduled for Aug. 31 in Dakota County.

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Editor's Note: A copy of Mastne's mug shot is attached.